

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT CHANDRIKA BANDARANAIKE KUMARATUNGA AND THE PEOPLE OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 10, S. Res. 17.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 17) congratulating President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the celebration of 53 years of independence.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 17) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 17

Whereas February 4, 2001, is the occasion of the 53rd anniversary of the independence of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka from Britain;

Whereas the present constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has been in existence since August 16, 1978, and guarantees universal suffrage; and

Whereas the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the United States share many values, including a common belief in democratic principles, a commitment to international cooperation, and promotion of enhanced trade and cultural ties: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the celebration of 53 years of independence;

(2) expresses best wishes to the Government and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as they celebrate their national day of independence on February 4, 2001; and

(3) looks forward to continued cooperation and friendship with the Government and people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in the years ahead.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President with the request that the President further transmit such copy to the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE IN EL SALVADOR

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 11, S. Res. 18.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 18) expressing sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck El Salvador on January 13, 2001.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 18) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 18

Whereas, on the morning of January 13, 2001, a devastating and deadly earthquake of a magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter scale shook the entire nation of El Salvador, killing more than 700 people, injuring more than 3,000, and leaving more than 50,000 homeless;

Whereas the earthquake of January 13, 2001, has left thousands of buildings in ruin, caused deadly landslides, and destroyed highways and other infrastructure;

Whereas the strength, courage, and determination of the people of El Salvador has been displayed since the earthquake;

Whereas El Salvador is still recovering from years of civil war, hurricane damage, and flood damage;

Whereas the people of the United States and El Salvador share strong friendship and mutual interests and respect;

Whereas some United States specialists from Costa Rica and Miami, including specialists from the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department, were deployed to assist disaster relief efforts in El Salvador;

Whereas United States military personnel from the United States Southern Command are providing some technical assistance;

Whereas the USAID/Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) has set up an office in El Salvador's National Emergency Committee (COEN) to assist the office in its coordination efforts and to ensure access to the latest information; and

Whereas the United Nations launched an appeal for humanitarian assistance and initial rehabilitation to address the devastation caused by the powerful earthquake: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its deepest sympathies to the people of El Salvador and other Central American countries for the tragic losses suffered as a result of the earthquake of January 13, 2001;

(2) expresses its support for the people of El Salvador as they continue their efforts to rebuild their cities and their lives;

(3) expresses support for disaster assistance being provided by the United States Agency for International Development and other relief agencies;

(4) recognizes the important role that is being played by the United States and other countries in providing assistance to alleviate the suffering of the people of El Salvador; and

(5) encourages a continued commitment by the United States and other countries to the long-term, sustainable development of El Salvador.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 12, S. Con. Res. 6.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 6) expressing sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck India on January 26, 2001, and support for ongoing aid efforts.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I am proud to cosponsor S. Con. Res. 6. This concurrent resolution sends a message of sympathy and support to the people of India, who have been struck by one of the worst natural disasters to afflict their nation in the half-century since Independence.

The earthquake which devastated the Western Indian state of Gujarat killed untold thousands. The magnitude of this tragedy is demonstrated by the fact that 30,000 dead is now referred to as an optimistic estimate. Other sources, such as the Indian Minister of Defense, have suggested a worst-case scenario of 100,000 dead.

As President Bush noted, a disaster such as this knows no national boundaries. The victims have been the people of India, but the burden of humanitarian relief rests on the shoulders of the entire world community.

I congratulate the relief workers, from many nations, who have stepped up to the challenge. The most important work, of course, has been done by the Indians themselves tens of thousands of military and civilian personnel who have labored tirelessly to help save the lives of those trapped in the wreckage.

Working alongside them have been search and rescue teams from Britain, Switzerland, Germany, Russia and Turkey. They helped locate victims with state-of-the-art thermal sensors, and with specially-trained canine units.

Following closely after the search and rescue teams have been medical units from France, Japan, Israel, Denmark and NGOs like the International Federation of the Red Cross and Doctors without Borders. These nations and groups have set up field hospitals and shipped in medical supplies to tend to the needs of tens of thousands of wounded.

Many other countries have offered cash donations, food, tents, blankets, or other humanitarian assistance. Of these donor countries I would like to single out Pakistan for particular commendation: in light of recent tensions, and of Pakistan's own losses in the earthquake—at least a dozen dead, with a full reckoning not yet made—the shipment of relief supplies was an important gesture of peace.